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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first through second paragraphs of the statement of invention (in accordance with the amendment of July 29, 2005) with the following two paragraphs:

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a verification system for a computer software installation having a primary library file, the primary library file having a digital signature; a loader program arranged to obtain a digital signature key and further arranged to load the primary library file, wherein, if a public key cannot be obtained via an internet site of a virtual machine provider, the digital signature key is a hidden public key internal to the loader program and, if a public key can be obtained via the internet site of the virtual machine provider, the digital signature key is the public key obtained via the internet site of the virtual machine provider; and a plurality of secondary files arranged to be referenced by the primary library file, each of the plurality of secondary files having a digital signature; wherein the loader program is arranged to verify and selectively load the primary library file by comparing the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of the primary library file, the primary library file being further arranged to subsequently verify and selectively load the plurality of secondary files by calling the loader program to compare the obtained digital signature key with the digital signature of each of the plurality of secondary files, wherein the computer software installation is a virtual machine installation.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a verification method for a computer software installation including launching a loader program arranged to load files ~~and further arranged to obtain a digital signature key;~~ if a public key is available from an internet site of a virtual machine provider, using the public key as a digital signature key; if a public is not available from the internet site of the virtual machine provider, using a hidden key as the digital signature key; using the loader program to verify the authenticity of a digital signature incorporated in a primary library file by comparing said digital signature with the digital signature key; selectively loading the primary library file in dependence upon the successful verification of its digital signature; using the primary library file and the loader

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program to verify the authenticity of digital signatures incorporated in each of a plurality of secondary files by comparing them with the digital signature key; and, selectively loading the plurality of secondary files in dependence upon the successful verification of their digital signatures, wherein the computer software installation is a virtual machine installation.